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American School
of Classical Studies
at Athens

PRE-MYCENAEAN GRAVES IN CORINTH

IN the course of the excavations made at Corinth in the spring of 1896 by the American School of Classical Studies at Athens, a trench¹ was run from the old temple in an easterly direction, following the line of the road, and with a gradual change of direction toward the north was prolonged past the building occupied by the village school until the main road from New to Old Corinth was reached. At this point the bed-rock came to the surface. Twenty-one metres above this point a branch trench (*Va* on the Plan) was dug in a direction slightly north of west for 13 m., and this resulted in the discovery of several walls of small stones, laid without lime mortar, and resting directly on the *stereo*. At the further end of the trench, quite by chance, the workmen came upon the short shaft which gives access to the graves that are the subject of this paper. The centre of the shaft is in line with a prolongation to the northeast of the rear wall of the schoolhouse, and is 22 m. distant from its corner. This part of ancient Corinth is on the north and northeast slope of a low ridge, which, starting just east of the present centre of the village, rises in a southerly direction, and is separated from the old temple by a valley, which was deeper by several metres in antiquity than now. The graves are some 30 m. distant from the crest of the ridge.

The entrance to the graves is a vertical shaft, having a cross-section 0.90 m. by 0.84 m. It is cut through a stratum of sandstone 1.10 m. thick into a coarser friable conglomerate

¹ Nos. III, IV, V on Plan (PLATE XIV), reproduced from *Fifteenth Annual Report* of the Managing Committee of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens.

beneath to a total depth of 2.25 m., reckoning from the upper surface of the sandstone. This lies 2.30 m. below the present surface of the soil (Fig. 1). From opposite sides of this shaft at its bottom, to north and south, open directly two grave-chambers. Natural caves are common in this vicinity, but these graves are entirely the work of man. When discovered,

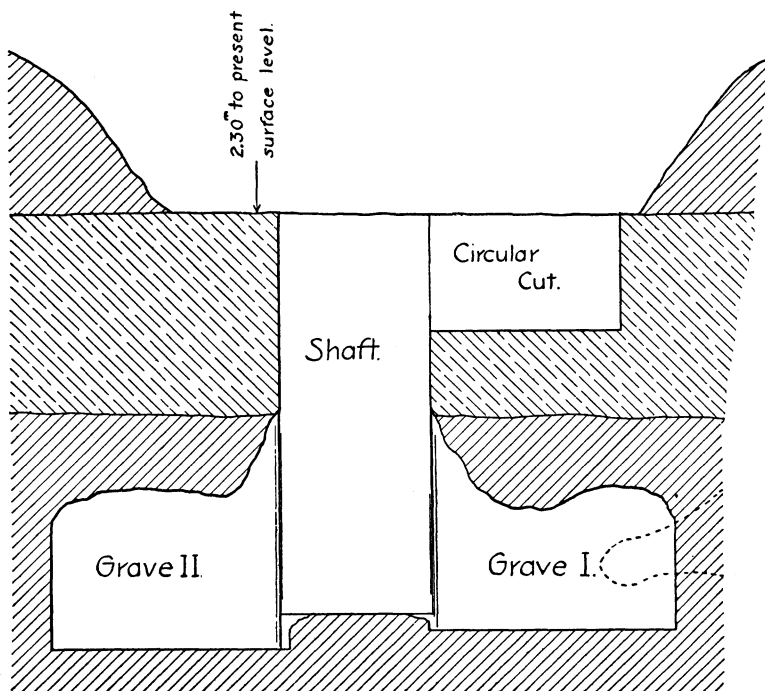


FIGURE 1. — PRE-MYCENAEAN GRAVES.

Shaft 2.25 m. deep, 0.84 m. across.

they were nearly filled with earth like that which choked the shaft, while below the earth, and until the bottom was reached, was a fine clayey deposit 0.25 m. thick, dark in color, like the silt often found in water-pipes, but mixed with sand and small pebbles which had evidently fallen from the conglomerate overhead.¹ On removing this deposit, which completely covered

¹ Cf. Tsountas in 'Εφ. 'Αρχ., 1888, p. 132; Staës in *Δελτιον*, 1888, p. 157, and in 'Εφ. 'Αρχ., 1895, p. 205.

the original contents of the graves, there were found bone fragments and vases of burned clay—eleven vases in Grave I, which lies to the north of the shaft, and ten in Grave II, that to the south. These vases have been obtained for the National Museum in Athens. The stone has crumbled away on the vaulting and at the entrances of the chambers, but their vertical walls and carefully levelled floors are well preserved. In shape the floor-areas are roughly elliptical, the major axes running east and west, and so at right angles to the entrances from the shaft (Fig. 2). The floor of the south chamber is

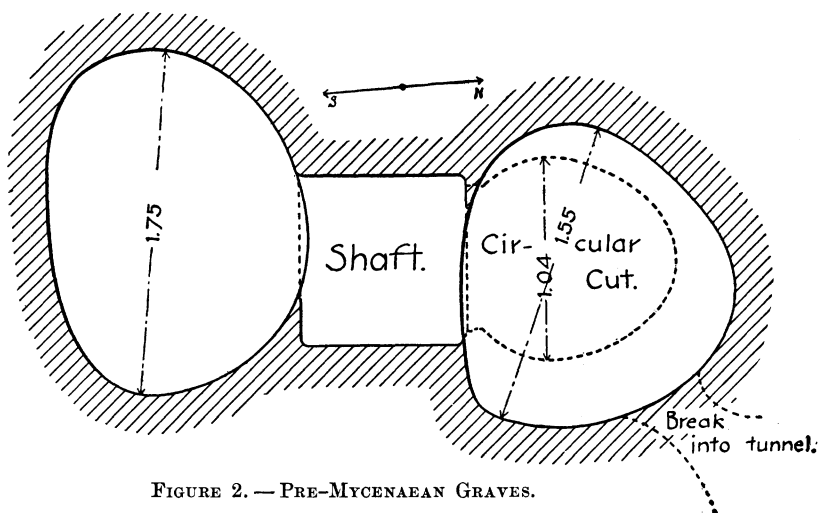


FIGURE 2. — PRE-MYCENAEAN GRAVES.

0.20 m., and that of the north chamber 0.09 m., lower than the bottom of the shaft. Each floor is cut out beyond the vertical line of the shaft, so that, while the shaft is 0.84 m. across, the “sill” at its bottom between the graves is only 0.77 m. (Fig. 1).

The bodies were placed with heads to the west. Grave I contained only a single body. Fragments of skull, 0.40 m. apart, in Grave II may perhaps be taken as indicating that here were two bodies. No weapons, ornaments, or other evidences indicative of sex were found, and no conclusion could be drawn from the scanty remains of bones. The same fine clayey deposit mentioned above, also filled the cavities in

the bones. From the dimensions given on Fig. 2, it will be seen that the graves are respectively 1.55 m. and 1.75 m. in length, so that only the longer would accommodate at full length the body of a man of medium height, — say 1.70 m., — and in that case the extreme length of the grave would be required. The fragments of skull nearest the end were, however, 0.10 m. from the wall, and without subtracting more it appears quite sure, especially considering the length of the other and shorter grave, that the bodies were not laid at full length. How they were disposed could not be determined with certainty from the few remaining fragments of bones. *In both graves pieces of skull were found pressed down into vases,* and in one instance (I 11) fragments broken from the rim of the vase were found embedded in the sediment with which the vase had filled, but *beneath* fragments of skull similarly embedded. This proves that the skull was originally above the vase in some position, from which it was forced into the vase by matter falling from the vault. In many of the chamber tombs of the Mycenaean age the bodies seem to have been buried almost in a sitting posture,¹ and of the earlier graves in Amorgos — representing the Cyclades type — Dümmler says,² *vielleicht ist Bestattung in hockender Stellung anzunehmen*. This may have been the case in the Corinth graves, or the bodies may have been — following a practice of some primitive tribes in other parts of the world — laid on their backs with legs bent and knees raised, which the size and shape of the graves well permits. The head would then rest on a vase as a sort of pillow.

Most of the vases were placed near the edge of the grave, and were in the western half of each grave, excepting I 7, II 7, 10, which were in the eastern half. The low vases were upright, the pitchers some upright and some on their side (their bottoms are such that they easily topple over). The former

¹ Staë's in *Δελτιον*, 1888, p. 158; Tsountas in 'Εφ. 'Αρχ., 1888, p. 132; *ibid.*, 1889, p. 149.

² *Ath. Mitth.*, XI (1886), p. 17; cf. Wolters, *ibid.*, XVI (1891), p. 48.

and some of the latter were filled with fine clay and sand from the roof, while others of the pitchers were only filled about the mouth, leaving the body quite empty. Small pieces of charcoal were noted in a number of the vases, and slight traces of grain kernels, besides the bone fragments mentioned above, and a human tooth.

At the top of the shaft leading to the graves, on its north side, and intersecting it, is a rock cutting, with its horizontal section roughly circular. Its diameter is something over a metre, while the depth of the cutting measures 0.65 m. (Figs. 1 and 2). It is evidently in some close relation to the shaft, though what purpose it served is not apparent.

Besides the graves, there was discovered a second underground complex, which at first sight seemed likely to have some important bearing on the graves themselves, but which, as later indications seemed to show, belonged to a much more recent period. It is a tunnel in the rock, or rather several connecting tunnels, which encircle the graves on three sides, approaching within a metre to Grave I on the north, while on the east and south its distance from Grave II is two metres and upwards. Neither end of the tunnel was reached, though over 30 m. were explored and practically freed from earth. At the end nearest Grave I the tunnel cannot extend much further, since the ground soon slopes rapidly. In most places the tunnel is carefully cut, averaging from 1.10 m. to 1.50 m. high, and from 0.45 m. to 1 m. wide. The part explored consisted of five straight connected sections, with a sharp change of direction from section to section, and one branch section. At intervals, usually where the tunnel changes direction, shafts go to the ancient surface of the ground, and are built up above the level of bed-rock with stones. In some cases flat stones are used to close the mouth of a shaft, and in one instance a long amphora of late workmanship takes the place of a stone. Largely through these shafts has the tunnel become choked with earth and other matter from above. Below one shaft is a well, now filled up. The tunnel was discovered through a small hole

leading from the northeast side of Grave I, and this was subsequently enlarged to allow a person to crawl from the grave into the tunnel. Though this hole seems to have existed in antiquity when the tunnel was in use, yet the contents of the graves were absolutely undisturbed. At a certain place in the tunnel appearances point to there having once been a pair of graves similar to those already described. They would then have been destroyed when the tunnel was cut. There is a widening of the tunnel at a point part way up its sides, and above is a shaft of the proper shape and size, and a circular cutting similar to that described in connection with our shaft. If the existence of this second pair of graves is established, then there can be no doubt (and there are other indications as well) that the tunnel is later than the graves. The objects found in the tunnel also point to the same conclusion. In the earth which partly filled it were roof-tile fragments; amphorae and pitchers of late types, whole and broken, some laid carefully side by side in the earth on a slight slope; a clay lamp; pieces of glass bottles of the shapes usual in a late period; part of a marble vase; and a marble pine-cone, about 0.15 m. high, like the head of a huge thyrsus. We have no suggestion to offer as to the purpose of this tunnel. An aqueduct seems out of the question from certain features in its construction. As was said, it seems not to have had any influence on the fate of the graves, and we shall not refer to it again.

DESCRIPTION OF VASES

GRAVE I

1. **Pitcher.**—Height, 0.185 m.; diameter, 0.133 m. Intact. Clay greenish and pale, with dark specks throughout, not washed fine. The body is bellying, the base formed by flattening the body, though perfect flatness is not attained. The neck is not marked off from the body, and the spout is long, with the same width from the top of the handle to the drip. The handle starts just above the greatest diameter, and is flat at first, to make an easy junction with the body, but soon becomes round in section. At the top of the handle is a small strip of clay, put across it after the pitcher was complete, making a thumb-piece.

2. **Pitcher.**—Height, 0.20 m.; diameter, 0.138 m. One fragment from spout and one side of thumb-piece lacking. Clay similar to that of No. 1. More squat than No. 1, and with a sharper line of demarcation between



I 1. — *Scale*, 1 : 6.



I 2. — *Scale*, 1 : 4½.



I 3. — *Scale*, 1 : 4½.

body and neck. The base is left quite convex, so that the vase rocks easily. Handle is flat, with a groove down its centre, in imitation of two round handles close together. Thumb-piece. Mouth round. Spout flares from 0.031 m. to 0.045 m.

3. **Pitcher.**—Height, 0.148 m.; diameter, 0.125 m. Handle broken and missing; chip gone from neck; bottom cracked and used for purposes of analysis. Clay greener than in Nos. 1 and 2. Shape still more squat than Nos. 1 and 2. Handle round in section. Neck wide, and with no sharp division from body. Spout short and wide.

4. **Pitcher.**—Height, 0.145 m.; diameter, 0.118 m. Corners of spout broken. Clay buff, quality same as in Nos. 1 to 3. Neck short, with slightly flaring mouth. Handle with groove. Insignificant thumb-piece.



I 4. — *Scale*, 1 : 4½.



I 5. — *Scale*, 1 : 4½.



I 6. — *Scale*, 1 : 4½.

5. **Pitcher.**—Height, 0.139 m.; diameter, 0.108 m. Intact. Clay pinkish. Neck large in proportion to body. Round handle.

6. **Pitcher.**—Height, 0.125 m.; diameter, 0.105 m. Handle broken, but preserved. Fragment missing from top of neck. Clay darker and browner

than No. 5. Resembles No. 4 in shape of body and neck. Spout short. Handle with groove.

7. **Pitcher.**—Height, 0.145 m.; diameter, 0.114 m. Lip somewhat broken. Clay reddish. No spout. Neck wide, and not marked off from body. Mouth flares slightly. Handle round in section, flat where it joins body.



I 7.—Scale, 1:4½.

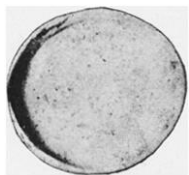


I 8.—Scale, 1:4½.

8. **Bowl.**—Height, 0.064 m.; diameter, 0.105 m. Practically intact. Clay fine, with no darker specks, pale green. Covered inside and out with a dull black, through which the clay is visible, as if smoked with fire. Edge thin, curving over and inwards. Its base, 0.04 m. in diameter, is formed with a strip of clay which encircles the bottom, the place of juncture being then smoothed over.

9. **Saucer.**—Height, 0.029 m.; diameter, 0.098 m. Intact. Certainly hand-made. Clay similar to No. 8, with slip of same.

10. **Low Jar without Handles.**—Height (restored), 0.075 m.; diameter, 0.113 m. Half of vase preserved; broken vertically. Clay red-brown with



I 9.—Scale, 1:4½.



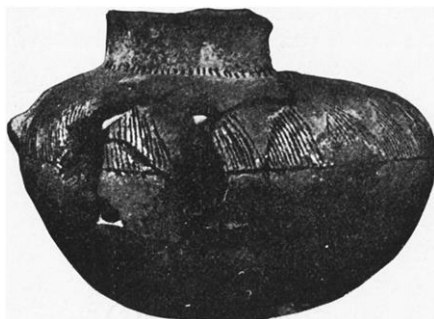
I 11.—Scale, 1:4½.

redder applied surface, hard and smooth, which has a tendency to crackle. Mouth 0.06 m. in diameter and 0.014 m. high.

11. **Low Jar.**—Height, 0.08 m.; diameter, 0.13 m.; diameter of mouth, 0.079 m. Similar to No. 10. Clay has become rotten, so that vase disintegrates easily and surface flakes off. Broken into several fragments. Clay dark buff, with dark red applied surface. Sharp curve at greatest diameter of vertical section. Foot flattened as in Nos. 1 to 7.

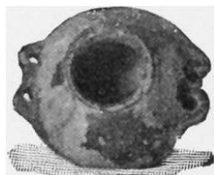
GRAVE II

1. **Low Jar with Two Handles.** — Height, 0.113 m.; diameter, 0.135 m. Intact. Clay light buff with dark specks throughout, and burnt pinkish in places. Bottom flattened for base of 0.075 m. diameter. Neck 0.02 m. high and mouth 0.08 m. in diameter. Handles rise slightly from the horizontal, and are attached at point of greatest diameter.

II 1. — *Scale, 1:5.*II 2. — *Scale, 1:2½.*

2. **Low Jar.** — Height, 0.09 m.; diameter, 0.13 m. Half of neck and part of body missing. In seven fragments — broken in antiquity, as there was a calcareous deposit on some of the edges of fracture. Clay reddish brown, with dark brown surface. Bottom slightly concave. Three protuberances, one of them broken, at equal distances on greatest circumference are pierced vertically for suspension. The decoration is incised, the pattern consisting of a band of single-hatched triangles on a common base line at bottom of pierced protuberances. They average 0.02 m. in length of base and altitude, and the hatching (never quite parallel with the right limb) is downward from left to right. The incised lines are filled with a white substance. At the junction of neck and body is a band of parallel sloping incisions 0.0025 m. long, also filled with white. The mouth is 0.017 m. high.

3. **Small Jar.** — Height, 0.037 m.; diameter, 0.06 m. Broken into two pieces, but complete with the exception of half of one handle. Clay light

II 3. — *Scale, 1:2¾.*II 4. — *Scale, 1:5½.*

brown, with black applied surface, highly polished. Edge of mouth pinched up to form rim. Bottom slightly flattened for base. At greatest diameter are two projections, each pierced twice vertically close to body.

4. **Pitcher.**—Height, 0.195 m.; diameter, 0.148 m. Intact. Clay as Nos. 1 and 2 of Grave I. Shape also similar. Neck and spout flare. Thumb-piece. Handle flattened, but groove not prominent.

5. **Pitcher.**—Height, 0.136 m.; diameter, 0.103 m. Intact. Clay light brick-red, with smooth thick slip of pinkish red. Type of No. 4. Bottom slightly convex. Sharp division between neck and body. Handle flat with slight groove. Thumb-piece.

6. Height, 0.047 m.; diameters, 0.07 m. and 0.08 m. Half of handle broken, but preserved. Hand-made. Clay light brown, with redder brown applied surface (cf. Grave I, Nos. 10, 11). Mouth 0.036 m. in diameter.



II 5. — *Scale*, 1 : 2 $\frac{1}{2}$.



II 6. — *Scale*, 1 : 2 $\frac{1}{2}$.

Bottom shows hand-moulding and is oval. In shape it is like the so-called "guttus" of the red-figured technique; cf. Furtwängler, *Vasensammlung* (Berlin), Taf. v, No. 242.

7. **Small Pitcher.**—Height, 0.043 m.; diameter, 0.038 m. Half of spout missing—an old break. Clay pale green, with dull black crackled surface color inside and out. Bottom 0.014 m. in diameter, deeply hollowed underneath, and with slender attachment to body. Handle has groove on under side, but is rounded above. Suggests metal technique.

8. **Vase in Form of a Bird.**—Height, 0.063 m.; diameters, 0.08 m. and 0.09 m. Handle, neck and head, and most of tail missing. Clay bright buff; in some places is preserved a finer pinkish surface. Base slightly concave. Three long sloping incised lines on each side for wings, five shorter vertical lines below neck for breast feathers, and five on what remains of the tail, which was horizontal, as the 0.006 m. preserved clearly show. Handle was attached to body above tail and curved upwards to meet neck, somewhat as in vase II 6.

II 7. — *Scale*, 1:2 $\frac{1}{4}$.II 8. — *Scale*, 1:2 $\frac{3}{4}$.

9. **Fragment of Small Jar.**—Diameter of mouth, 0.028 m. Broken horizontally, and lower part missing. Clay dark red-brown, with black applied surface, which has almost entirely disappeared. One of the two square handle-projections preserved: pierced with two holes 0.008 m. apart. Cf. No. 3.

10. **Saucer.**—Height, 0.02 m.; diameter, 0.093 m. Broken into five pieces. Yellow-brown clay. Cf. I 9.

The primitive character of these vases from Corinth is unmistakable, and they must now be compared with other styles of early pottery, in order to determine their relative place in the series which begins with the lowest stratum at Troy and culminates at Mycenae. It is no longer necessary to emphasize the fact that the invention of such paint as would be lustrous like a varnish after the vase was fired was the crowning achievement of the Mycenaean potter's art. These vases from Corinth make no use of this discovery, and so do not belong in this Mycenaean class,—using the adjective in its narrowest sense. Mycenae and other sites where the same civilization has been established furnish, it is true, an abundance of unpainted pottery, but this in the main differs from the vases under discussion in the technical skill displayed, in the shapes striven after, and in the clay used. After the passing away of the Mycenaean style, there is no place in the series to which these Corinth vases can be assigned. They must therefore be compared with the various sorts of pottery which either precede the Mycenaean style, or which, if contemporary with it, are still uninfluenced by it. These may be classed together under the term primitive.

With these groups points of similarity will at once present themselves, though we must not expect to find absolute identity in any feature; for in so long a period as this various subdivisions can be made, if we take as a criterion the stage of development attained in the pottery of any of the several localities represented, while each locality has its own distinctive and traditional characteristics. These local variations, within the limits made possible by the simplicity of the product, are more marked in this early period than those of a later time when commercial intercourse was more developed, as *e.g.* — to take a still comparatively early period — Dr. Wide has pointed out¹ in the Dipylon-geometric style. For bulk of material, Troy, with its Phrygian affinities,² must head the list of local types. Cyprus, at the other geographical extreme, will offer some analogous features; but it is to the discoveries made in the Cyclades and on the mainland of Greece that we naturally look in order to find that which has the most in common with the Corinth vases. Here the mass of available material is not yet very great or very complete, though nearly every year adds a new site to those already known.

The discussion will be carried on under the following heads: I. Technique; II. Shapes of vases and of their parts; III. Surface treatment and ornamentation; IV. Nature of clay.

I. The first point to be considered relates to the employment of the potter's wheel: was it, or was it not, used in the manufacture of these vases from Corinth? I 8 seems unmistakably to have been made on a wheel, while I 9 is clearly hand-made. A careful examination of the outsides of the pitchers (which form the major part of the collection) fails to reveal any wheel marks whatever. Numerous non-parallel scratches point, on the contrary, to a treatment of the surface with a hand tool, perhaps in connection with an applied clay slip, though no polish is obtained as on some of the early

¹ *Ath. Mitth.*, XXI (1896), p. 406.

² Cf. Körte in *Arch. Anz.*, 1896, p. 34.

Trojan ware. Furthermore, the rounded bottoms, flattened just enough to keep the vase upright, are not what we should expect in a wheel-made vase. Yet, on the other hand, there is a regularity in the vases as wholes and a lightness in the several parts—handles, mouths—such as cannot be found in the bulk of the largely hand-made Trojan pottery as it is figured in Schliemann's various publications. The Trojan ware appears clumsy and coarse when compared with the Corinth pitchers, which rather resemble the lighter Thera *oenochos*, though judged by other criteria they belong clearly to an earlier stage of development than these. In an unbroken pitcher it is not possible to inspect the interior sufficiently to decide for or against the presence of wheel marks. While obtaining a portion of it for purposes of analysis I 3 was so fractured that the interior could be examined. This shows, in spite of the impurities of the clay, distinct parallel markings, which must, it seems to us, be due to rotation of some sort in the making.¹ What is true of this vase is undoubtedly true of the others similar to it.

II. The bellies of the pitchers from Corinth are mostly low in proportion to their diameter, and they thus form a contrast to the typical pitcher from Troy and Thera. Some Trojan vases, however, approach those from Corinth in their shape of belly; *e.g.* *Ilios*, figs. 57, 58, 371, 374, 375, 1160. A vase from Antiparos (*J.H.S.*, V [1884], p. 55, fig. 12) is quite like our I 6; so Schliemann, *Tiryns*, p. 65, fig. 3, resembles somewhat I 5. Furtwängler und Loeschke, *Mykenische Thongefässe*, pl. iv, No. 13, from Shaft-grave II (with *Mattmalerei*), except for its spout and base, may be very well compared with I 1.

With but two exceptions (I 8, II 7) the bottoms of our pitchers and jars are formed merely by flattening the lower part of the belly enough to allow the vase to stand erect, there being no foot marked off with a profile and no concavity attempted beneath. This is in theory later than such Trojan and Cyprian vases as leave the bottom rounded and the vase

¹ Cf. Dümmler in *Ath. Mitth.*, XI (1886), p. 221.

unsteady, but it was a step which was taken very early.¹ Analogies are too frequent to make reference necessary, yet cf. *Ath. Mitth.*, XI (1886), p. 22. All the Theran vases show the next development of bottom, a foot marked off from the belly with a slight profile.

The handles of the pitchers are not only lighter than those of the Trojan ware, but are also much longer,—longer, too, than the handles of pottery from the Cyclades. They show, however, the greatest contrast with the very short handles on the vases from Thera, which latter are followed by most of the Mycenaean *oenochoe*. These handles of the pitchers from Corinth start at the very top of the mouth, and usually end just above the point of greatest diameter. This tends to make them ungraceful; they do not grow naturally out from the body, but seem like an afterthought. A handle grooved longitudinally—as in I 2, 4, 6; II 5—is frequent in later pottery, and probably points back to basketwork, with two withes side by side serving as handle. The thumb-piece at the top of the handle of I 1, 2, 4 and II 4, 5 is curious, but quite practical, and this, rather than decoration, is its motive.

In the Trojan and Cyprian pottery the spouts of pitchers are most frequently pointed straight up and rounded at the drip. The majority of the Theran *oenochoe* are somewhat similar in the former respect, but they have a drip of the shape prevailing in the Corinth vases. In the latter perhaps the most individual feature is the angle and shape of the spout. This is never very long, and never rises over 45° from the horizontal. *Ilios*, fig. 333, shows something like it, though the vase-type is utterly different. Compare also 'Εφ. 'Αρχ., 1895, pl. x, No. 9, from Markopoulo; and Furtwängler und Loeschcke, *Mykenische Vasen*, pl. ix, No. 54. A slight flare to the outer corners of the spout is the rule, and seems a not unnatural feature.

The shape of vase represented by II 1 may be said to be foreshadowed by *Ilios*, fig. 1103, or better by *Tiryns*, fig. 7. I 10, 11; II 2, 3, 9, are variants from this type. Compare with

¹ Cf. Evans in *J.H.S.*, XIV (1894), p. 333.

them also *Ilios*, figs. 23, 1125; *Tiryns*, fig. 1. With this form are allied two Mycenaean shapes; Furtwängler und Loeschcke, *Mykenische Vasen*, pl. xlv, Nos. 9, 32.

Of this group of vases, II 2, 3, 9, in place of handles, have vertically pierced projections, which once held cords either for suspension purposes or to fasten on a now missing cover. The three projections on II 2 are in keeping with its more primitive character in other respects: they are small, and each has but a single hole. Compare *J.H.S.*, V (1884), pp. 54 ff., figs. 10, 11, 13, representing vases from Antiparos of very similar technique. In II 3, 9 the two projections are larger, and each of them has two holes a short distance apart, with an obvious advantage. Compare *Ilios*, figs. 23, 282, etc.; *Tiryns*, fig. 1.

The bowl I 8 is no new shape. *Ilios*, figs. 37, 38, are similar, except for the suspension holes, but much cruder in workmanship, and presumably with the bottom formed by a different method (cf. description of vase). Three bowls of this type are among the Theran vases at the French School in Athens, but they have the added feature of small horizontal handles near the rim, and a foot of a different construction. The British Museum, also, possesses a similar specimen, probably from the Cyclades.

Vases which copy the form of an animal are frequent in the early strata at Troy. Compare *Ilios*, figs. 160, 333-340; *Troja*, figs. 55, 67-69. These, however, are quadrupeds, while II 8 is clearly a bird. If a considerably later specimen may be referred to, as showing the same idea, it is to be found in *Ath. Mitth.*, XI, pl. iii, and p. 142, from Crete. Slightly similar, too, is the vase from Cyprus, with incised pattern, figured *ibid.*, 1st. *Beilage* to p. 209, No. 6.

III. Besides several vases which show clear traces of a slip more or less like the clay of the vase itself in color, there may be mentioned I 10, 11; II 6, which have a surface color of a dark red-brown, quite in contrast with the lighter color of the clay. For a similar surface color one may compare Nos. 55,

676, 678, of the National Museum, Athens. Dümmler, in *Ath. Mitth.*, XI, p. 22, under G 1 (cf. p. 222), may refer to this characteristic, and perhaps also Schliemann in *Tiryns*, p. 70.

Two vases, II 3 and II 9, respectively of light brown and dark brown clay, have a highly polished black surface, which resembles that of certain vases from Troy and elsewhere, though in these the clay is usually gray or black. Cf. Schliemann: *Ilios*, p. 219; *Troja*, p. 33. II 7 had once a coating of black, — perhaps by the same process, perhaps not. At any rate, it has now almost entirely disappeared, probably from a loosening of the clay slip on which it was applied.

None of these vases, as was mentioned, has a painted decoration, and only two are adorned with incised lines. One of these, II 8, is in the form of a bird, and the incisions suggest in a crude way the feathers and wings. The other, II 2, is unlike any of the other vases in the nature of its clay (cf. below), while its decoration places it equally in a class apart from them. The geometric pattern of a band of hatched triangles is a common one in the primitive pottery of Central Europe and Italy, while for analogous designs in Greek lands may be compared: Dörpfeld, *Troja*, 1893, p. 94, fig. 37; *Ath. Mitth.*, XI, 2nd. *Beilage* to p. 16, No. 1 [= National Museum, Athens, No. 47]; *ibid.*, 2nd. *Beilage* to p. 209, No. 16; *ibid.*, XXI (1896), pl. xv, No. 3 (incised), No. 6 (painted), — both from Aphidna; Athens, National Museum, No. 49 (Amorgos); Furtwängler und Loeschke, *Mykenische Thongefässe*, pl. iv, No. 13 (painted design from Shaft-grave II at Mycenae).

IV. The clay of II 2, as was said above, as well as other characteristics, makes it unique among these vases. This clay is brown in the centre, and burned to a darker color at the surface. It is quite brittle, and is similar to that of some of the pottery of the Cyclades.

Some of the pitchers are of a clay which at first sight appears like that of the Thera vases. An importation of our vases from Thera seemed *a priori* improbable, but only an analysis

could decide regarding this. Fouqué's microscopical examination of the Theran clays served as model and for comparison.¹ A "rock-section" of I 3 (a typical specimen) was made, and we are indebted to Professor Louis V. Pirsson, of Yale University, for an examination of this and of other "sections." The examination showed that a great many of the inclusions found by Fouqué in the Theran clays were lacking in the vase from Corinth. There was, furthermore, a striking similarity in the matter of inclusions between the vase I 3 and a fragment of an ancient roof-tile of good period found in the excavations at Corinth. Their points of resemblance were stronger than their points of dissimilarity, and the latter were none other than might arise from a different date in the manufacture of each. It seems, accordingly, probable that the two were from the same occurrence of clay. That this was in the neighborhood of Corinth it is only reasonable to believe, as with the well-known abundance of clay there² it would be strange to import such bulky and ordinary things as roof-tiles. As yet no systematic study has been made of the clay deposits around Corinth, so that we cannot refer clay with inclusions as above to any definite locality. "Sections" of vases of late local-Corinthian manufacture were also made and examined. The clay of these had been washed fine, but seemed essentially the same as the basis of I 3. As was shown in the description of the pitchers and one or two other vases, the clay varied in color from pale green to buff and red-brown. There is also variation in the size and frequency of the included particles, and differences due to degree of firing can be pointed out, but these clays are of the same general sort.

A further distinct variety of clay is represented by I 8, 9 and II 7. It is greenish, is washed fine, has a slip which tends to detach itself; is, in fact, so like later Corinthian vases that we can unhesitatingly pronounce it of local provenience.

¹ Fouqué, *Santorin et ses Éruptions*, p. 125.

² Cf. Büchsenschütz, *Die Hauptstätten des Gewerbfleißes im klassischen Alterthume*, p. 17.

The two graves which have been described above are of a type hitherto unknown on the mainland of Greece or among the Cyclades. Local styles of graves to contain local varieties of vases are to be expected in this long primitive period. Two styles have thus far been met with. The typical grave of the Cyclades — found also at Aphidna¹ — is a shallow cutting in the rock or earth, covered with slabs of stone. In case the grave is dug in the earth, stone slabs are used also on the floor and sides.² Round or oblong pits for burial have also been found beneath the pavement of the prehistoric buildings on the citadel of Thoricus.³ The other mode of interment is in large *pithoi*, and is established for Thoricus,⁴ Aegina,⁵ Aphidna,⁶ Amorgos, and Tiryns.⁷ Why should not Corinth, with a type of vase different from those found elsewhere, also have a local type of grave? The Mycenaean period presents analogies to this variety. Here are shaft-graves, beehive tombs of hewn and of rough stones, chamber tombs of all sorts, from a series of rooms, as at Spata, to the small and wretched sort of the Attic Mesogaea, which sometimes almost dispense with a *dromos*, or have one with a steep downward incline or an approach even fitted with steps,⁸ and finally the short, shallow pits of a Salaminian graveyard. This is a period measured by hundreds of years, but the earlier period, with which we are dealing, is indefinitely longer, and the civilization in its details is not so homogeneous. In this earlier, primitive period diversity, and not uniformity, is to be expected.

The double grave at Corinth is of a type not absolutely unknown before, for in Cyprus there are pre-Phoenician sepulchres, which Professor Dümmler thus describes⁹: *In beiden*

¹ Wide in *Ath. Mitth.*, XXI (1896), p. 389.

² Bent in *J. H. S.*, V (1884), p. 48; Dümmler in *Ath. Mitth.*, XI (1886), p. 17.

³ Cf. *Πρακτικά*, 1893, p. 16.

⁴ *Πρακτικά*, 1893, p. 16.

⁵ *Ἐφ. Ἀρχ.*, 1895, p. 249.

⁶ *Ath. Mitth.*, XXI (1896), p. 389.

⁷ Tsountas and Manatt, *The Mycenaean Age*, p. 386.

⁸ Staë's in *Ἐφ. Ἀρχ.*, 1895, pp. 214 ff.

⁹ *Ath. Mitth.*, XI (1886), p. 215. Cf. 2nd. *Beilage* to p. 209 for sketch.

Fällen [i.e. in rock-cut and earth-dug graves] ist zuerst ein senkrechter Stollen in den Boden getrieben, dessen Querschnitt ein Rechteck ist von etwa 3:6 englischen Fuss. . . . Die Durchschnittstiefe liegt zwischen 6 und 9 Fuss. . . . Das eigentliche Grab ist eine unregelmässig gewölbte Höhle, welche am Boden des Stollens meist durch eine der kürzeren Seiten gebrochen ist, mitunter finden sich zwei Höhlen in gegenüberliegenden, seltner in benachbarten Seiten. . . . In spite of this similarity,—extending even to such a detail as the floor of the chamber being lower than the bottom of the shaft,—it seems in the light of our present knowledge overbold to claim any connection between the two places, or any influence of the one on the other. Against any interrelation it may be urged that partial cremation is the rule in Cyprus,¹ while in Corinth there is no trace of any such practice. What suggested such a style of grave in Corinth can only be conjectured. Perhaps there, as in Cyprus,² there existed a type of grave at the bottom of a shaft which was changed, one can easily understand why, to the form we have. This latter is an unpractical design, as it must have been hard to get a body down the shaft and into the chamber, a difficulty which would not be present in Cyprus with cremation in vogue. For a similar difficulty compare Staës in the *Ἐφημερίς Ἀρχαιολογική*, 1895, p. 217, on a Mycenaean tomb in the Attic Mesogaea.

A glance at Hauptmann Steffen's map shows the importance of the overland route from Mycenae towards Corinth, whose situation commands the Isthmus and so the traffic north and south by land, and east and west by sea. It seems strange that as yet no Mycenaean remains have been found at the latter place. A site in such close relations with the distributing centre could hardly remain free from its influence; we must therefore live in the hope of discovering in the future some traces of this influence, and welcome meanwhile this bit of evidence as to the occupation of the place at a time anterior to the rise of Mycenae.

¹ Dümmler, *l.c.*, p. 216.

² *Vide* Dümmler's sketch.

Whether other similar graves have escaped destruction from the almost continuous inhabitation of the site cannot be stated with certainty. It is perfectly possible that there are others but with no surface-indications whatever, and with so great a depth of soil as prevails here, it will be—as it was in this case—only a lucky accident which will bring about their discovery.

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